



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steve Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dick Brown
502-564-5525
Dick.Brown@ky.gov

Coal Miner Dies in Underground Mining Accident

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 16, 2014) – A Union County, Ky. miner died today when he was struck by a ram car at an underground mine near Waverly. The Kentucky Division of Mine Safety (DMS) identified the miner as 34-year-old Eli Eldridge of Sturgis. The accident occurred at the Patriot Coal Company's Highland No. 9 mine at approximately 11 a.m. CT.

The mine has been closed while officials from DMS conduct their investigation. A ram car is a shuttle vehicle that carries coal from the continuous miner to the feeder on the belt line.

This is the second mine-related fatality in Kentucky in 2014. A surface mine operator died Oct. 8 at a mine in Bell County.

###